

Anti-Slavery Office
Phil^a March 10th

[1863]

My dear Miss Weston

The "Cabinet minister" was Mr. Stanton; the "Senator" Mr. Sumner.

at the outset Mr. Bingham supposed that I should be one of the commissioners; but - I promptly said "No" - one fearful ^{my} proposition being that ~~it~~ ^{the} ~~minister~~ ^{commissioner} should be above the suspicion of being anti-slavery, and what the world would call "highly respectable". I was willing to stand out of sight & leave a fierce party, if that were deemed advisable.

Mr. Stanton was with him found William Sumner (a good man) & Horace Binney at St. Ft. & Prof. a passing!! as soon as I got the letter from Mr. Sumner that this was the place, I packed off to Washington. I was sure Mr. Binney would not accept & feared that a passing would. I found that Mr. B. had declined & that no further steps had been taken.

The names suggested by me were those of Charles J. Stillé, Wm. M. Lillie, man, Marmaduke C. Coker & Francis B. Coker. "Either will suit me" said Mr. L. "all I want is one western man, &

I should prefer Bishop Simpson. For
with me a list; I will make out the
order," on visiting Mr Sumner shore
on Stone of Boston. I fixed upon
Mr Tilyman, and there, with
Bishop S. would constitute the
number. Mr Sumner had said, in
the interview, that there ought to
be two secretaries. "No" said Mr
Simpson "one will be enough". As we
walked home Mr Sumner said that
Frank Sanborn would be just the
man for secretary. I agreed with
him, adding that if there should
be ^{two} I wanted to be one.

I returned to Phil^a, but Mr Tily-
man, and all the rest successively
declined. I wrote & telegraphed the
facts to Mr Sumner. He replied that
with the declination of Mr Tilyman
the thing had broken down.

Some time afterwards Mr Spear
& Mr Ford came through Phil^a on
their way to Washington, and called
to see me. They were full of the "busi-
ness" idea. I told them that that
was a sensible measure but at
present, with Stanton opposed to it,
an unworkable one. I said "why

not take what you can get - a
Cem museum with large burials?
They agreed with me that it would
be a good thing and said it should
not be allowed to fall through for
want of a name from Phila;
why would not my name do?
I told them why. They said then
was nothing in it & that I should
be in the Cem museum. "Well" I said
"if the opposing person moved
have no objection to me, I am at
your service, & you are at liberty
to propose me. I had them goodbye,
they promising to write to me from
Washington. I did not hear from
them. I wrote to Mr Sumner, but
I could get nothing from him
reply. That was the end so far as
I know of the whole affair. I
think it likely that Mr Sumner, Mr
Bird or Mr Thomas, either or all
of them know why the thing was
a failure, but I do not. Nor do I
now much care.
I have sometimes thought that if
I had the matter to do over again, I
would go to representatives & seek the
cooperation of men, from my own State.

Representations are naturally more in-
fluenced by the wishes of their own
than other people's constituents.

I presume the whole thing has
been abandoned. Mr Stanton, very
well disposed, but it would be too
much to ask him - with his pressing
cares - to do more than he expected
himself to do. Personally, that
is, looking at my own comfort & convenience
I am glad the thing is dropped. It
leaves me where I am always happy
at, at home with my family around
me.

— Your kind letter of the 22nd found
me great pleasure. I am comforted
& strengthened when such as you and
your sister Emma approve what I
write. — O, Johnson was very late
of & I asked him who "W. H." was but
he declined to tell or even to give me
a hint. On reflection since I have
come to the conclusion that W. H. were
the initial & final of Weymouth & that
you were the author of that article. If
not then there must be "two Browns"
in our household, for ~~there~~ surely no one
but yourself present after you could have
written that article. But then, your
eyes! Perhaps it was your sister E.
— I don't know her style.
Yours ever truly J. M. McKim

Ms. A.9.2.31.49